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# CURRENT MINNESOTA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

June 1985 Supplement to The Review of Labor and Economic Conditions

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## Nation

Although there were signs that the Nation's economy might become stronger in the coming months, the economy was still rather sluggish in May. The encouraging signs were the declines in interest rates and a slowdown in the slide of manufacturing employment.

Even though the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 7.3 percent for the fourth consecutive month in May, labor market developments were generally favorable in May. Although seasonally adjusted total employment showed little growth in May, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment registered its strongest gain since last September. However, except for employment in construction which rose by 32,000 in May, the May payroll employment increases were exclusively in the services-producing industries. Employment in manufacturing continued to decline in May and was little above the level of a year ago. A bright spot in the otherwise dismal manufacturing picture was that the May drop was the smallest this year.

Other indicators showed mixed trends in May. Industrial production dropped for the second straight month in May while housing starts fell very sharply. Although retail sales and personal income declined in May, the decreases followed very large gains in April which were attributable to farm subsidy payments and Federal payroll adjustments. Meanwhile, personal spending rose healthily for the second consecutive month in May.

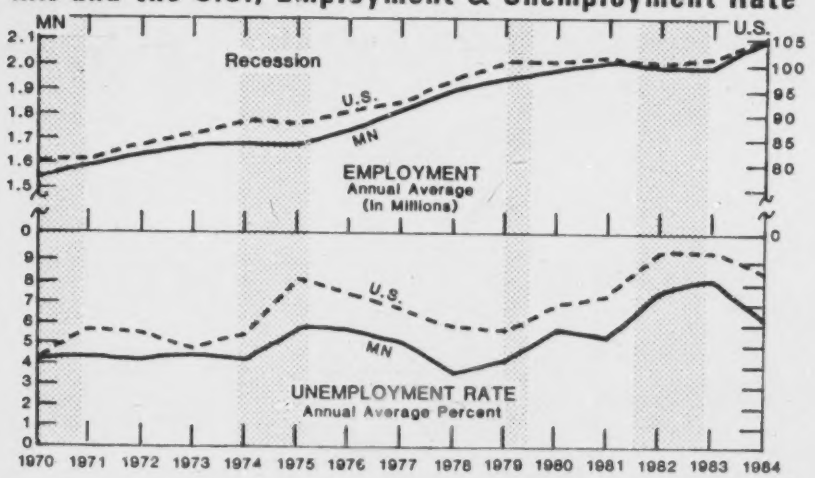
## State

Although the unemployment rate has been dropping, primarily due to a shrinking labor force, the Minnesota economy appears to have weakened since the beginning of the year. Total employment has been declining and some key nonfarm industries have shown declines in recent months.

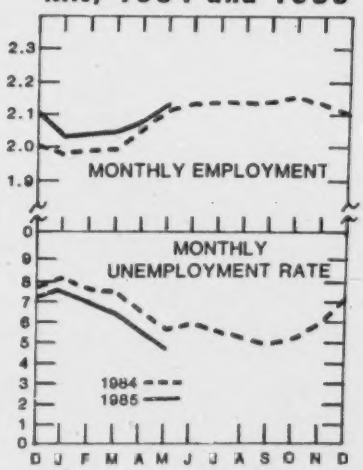
Minnesota's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell 0.4 of a percentage point to 5.0 percent in May, down from 6.1 percent a year ago and the lowest since the 3.9 percent in September of 1979. The adjusted rate has fallen steadily since the 6.6 percent in December 1984. On the other hand, seasonally adjusted total employment has also been dropping in recent months, by 6,900 in May and 16,400 in April. Although seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 4,400 in May, largely because of gains of 2,400 in services and 1,700 in government, employment in durable goods manufacturing fell for the third consecutive month in May while construction employment decreased for the second straight month. Also, employment in trade, particularly in wholesale trade has shown reductions in three of the past four months. Manufacturing employment, after reaching a recent high in February, is now slightly below the level of last August. The recent highs for construction and trade were in March and January, respectively. The largest declines in durable goods manufacturing over the past three months were in office computing equipment, electrical equipment, stone, clay and glass, and transportation equipment.

| Labor Force Estimates | MINNESOTA (Numbers in '000's) | | | UNITED STATES (Numbers in '000,000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 1985 | Change From Last Mo. | Change From Year Ago | May 1985 | Change From Last Mo. | Change From Year Ago |
| Civilian Labor Force | 2232.8 | 14.7 | -2.2 | 114.9 | 0.6 | 1.6 |
| Employed | 2126.0 | 34.4 | 21.4 | 106.9 | 0.7 | 1.8 |
| Unemployed | 106.8 | -19.7 | -23.6 | 8.0 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| Unemployment Rate | | | | | | |
| Actual | 4.8 | -0.9 | -1.0 | 7.0 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| Seasonally Adjusted | 5.0 | -0.4 | -1.1 | 7.3 | 0.0 | -0.2 |

**MN and the U.S., Employment & Unemployment Rate**




**MN, 1984 and 1985**



# Minnesota Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment, Hours, and Earnings

| INDUSTRY | EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands) | | | PER CENT CHANGE FROM | | PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Average Weekly Earnings | | Average Hourly Earnings | | Average Weekly Hours | |
| | May 1985 | Apr. 1985 | May 1984 | Apr. 1985 | May 1984 | May 1985 | Apr. 1985 | May 1985 | Apr. 1985 | May 1985 | Apr. 1985 |
| TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL | 1893.5 | 1864.4 | 1829.3 | 1.6 | 3.5 | | | | | | |
| MANUFACTURING | 376.4 | 375.0 | 370.1 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 397.98 | 399.59 | 10.05 | 10.04 | 39.6 | 39.8 |
| Durable Goods | 228.0 | 227.1 | 225.3 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 412.50 | 412.29 | 10.16 | 10.13 | 40.6 | 40.7 |
| Furniture, Lumber and Wood | 17.6 | 16.9 | 16.3 | 3.8 | 7.7 | 455.10 | 453.17 | 11.10 | 11.08 | 41.0 | 40.9 |
| Stone, Clay and Glass | 8.9 | 8.0 | 8.9 | 11.3 | -0.4 | 376.32 | 363.56 | 10.31 | 10.27 | 36.5 | 35.4 |
| Primary Metals | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 1.3 | -7.1 | 381.10 | 399.31 | 9.25 | 9.44 | 41.2 | 42.3 |
| Fabricated Metals | 35.2 | 35.4 | 34.8 | -0.5 | 1.2 | 442.00 | 439.82 | 10.86 | 10.78 | 40.7 | 40.8 |
| Nonelectrical Machinery | 94.1 | 94.8 | 91.1 | -0.7 | 3.3 | 434.19 | 437.78 | 10.59 | 10.60 | 41.0 | 41.3 |
| Electrical Machinery | 27.3 | 27.3 | 27.7 | -0.1 | -1.6 | 313.23 | 319.19 | 7.87 | 7.94 | 39.8 | 40.2 |
| Transportation Equipment | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7.0 | -0.8 | -3.0 | 514.21 | 501.34 | 11.66 | 11.42 | 44.1 | 43.9 |
| Other Durable Goods 2/ | 32.1 | 31.9 | 33.0 | 0.7 | -2.6 | 388.49 | 383.25 | 9.64 | 9.51 | 40.3 | 40.3 |
| Nondurable Goods | 148.4 | 148.0 | 144.9 | 0.3 | 2.5 | 380.16 | 380.54 | 9.90 | 9.91 | 38.4 | 38.4 |
| Food and Kindred | 44.5 | 44.0 | 43.7 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 326.48 | 324.49 | 8.66 | 8.63 | 37.7 | 37.6 |
| Textile and Apparel | 4.5 | 4.6 | 5.1 | -1.3 | -10.8 | 229.60 | 222.95 | 6.36 | 6.37 | 36.1 | 35.0 |
| Paper and Allied | 33.8 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 491.31 | 498.53 | 11.67 | 11.73 | 42.1 | 42.5 |
| Printing and Publishing | 42.1 | 42.2 | 39.3 | -0.2 | 7.0 | 376.92 | 377.61 | 10.47 | 10.46 | 36.0 | 36.1 |
| Chemical and Petroleum | 10.0 | 10.0 | 9.9 | -0.3 | 0.9 | 442.18 | 440.35 | 11.11 | 11.12 | 39.8 | 39.6 |
| Rubber and Leather | 13.6 | 13.6 | 13.4 | -0.5 | 1.3 | 320.64 | 320.44 | 8.35 | 8.28 | 38.4 | 38.7 |
| NONMANUFACTURING | 1517.1 | 1489.4 | 1459.2 | 1.9 | 4.0 | | | | | | |
| Mining and Quarrying | 10.0 | 9.8 | 10.7 | 2.2 | -6.6 | 518.76 | 514.80 | 13.10 | 13.20 | 39.6 | 39.0 |
| Metal Mining | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.6 | -2.6 | -9.0 | 542.19 | 538.23 | 14.01 | 13.98 | 38.7 | 38.5 |
| Construction | 74.4 | 65.7 | 67.5 | 13.1 | 10.2 | 564.29 | 605.18 | 15.46 | 15.76 | 36.5 | 38.4 |
| Building | 20.1 | 18.6 | 18.9 | 7.9 | 6.1 | 540.20 | 553.77 | 14.60 | 14.65 | 37.0 | 37.8 |
| Highway and Heavy | 13.4 | 8.6 | 11.9 | 55.3 | 12.2 | 469.14 | 534.66 | 13.29 | 13.40 | 35.3 | 39.9 |
| Special Trades | 40.9 | 38.5 | 36.6 | 6.2 | 11.6 | 607.19 | 647.81 | 16.59 | 16.87 | 36.6 | 38.4 |
| Transportation | 64.8 | 63.8 | 62.6 | 1.6 | 3.5 | | | | | | |
| Railroads | 9.8 | 9.7 | 10.8 | 1.0 | -8.9 | | | | | | |
| Trucking and Warehousing | 26.9 | 26.5 | 25.3 | 1.4 | 6.3 | 388.74 | 389.30 | 11.40 | 11.45 | 34.1 | 34.0 |
| Public Utilities | 34.9 | 34.8 | 34.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 539.46 | 539.74 | 13.32 | 13.36 | 40.5 | 40.4 |
| Communications | 20.3 | 20.2 | 20.4 | 0.9 | -0.2 | 504.70 | 505.11 | 12.25 | 12.26 | 41.2 | 41.2 |
| Elec., Gas and Sanitary | 14.6 | 14.6 | 14.4 | -0.1 | 1.5 | 581.61 | 579.97 | 14.65 | 14.72 | 39.7 | 39.4 |
| Trade | 477.6 | 469.6 | 457.3 | 1.7 | 4.4 | 223.73 | 221.34 | 7.61 | 7.58 | 29.4 | 29.2 |
| Retail | 358.4 | 351.7 | 340.8 | 1.9 | 5.2 | 178.59 | 176.46 | 6.59 | 6.56 | 27.1 | 26.9 |
| General Merchandise | 50.4 | 49.4 | 46.1 | 2.0 | 9.2 | 168.21 | 164.90 | 6.30 | 6.27 | 26.7 | 26.3 |
| Food Stores | 47.0 | 46.4 | 46.3 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 196.79 | 190.18 | 7.13 | 7.07 | 27.6 | 26.9 |
| Automotive | 39.4 | 38.9 | 37.0 | 1.4 | 6.6 | 332.51 | 329.36 | 9.16 | 8.95 | 36.3 | 36.8 |
| Eating and Drinking | 126.1 | 122.6 | 118.8 | 2.9 | 6.2 | 101.68 | 100.96 | 4.58 | 4.61 | 22.2 | 21.9 |
| Wholesale | 119.2 | 117.9 | 116.6 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 382.50 | 376.19 | 10.20 | 10.14 | 37.5 | 37.1 |
| F.I.R.E. | 109.5 | 108.5 | 105.9 | 1.0 | 3.5 | | | | | | |
| Finance | 50.9 | 50.8 | 50.0 | 0.2 | 1.8 | | | | | | |
| Insurance | 39.6 | 39.2 | 38.0 | 0.9 | 4.1 | | | | | | |
| Real Estate | 19.1 | 18.5 | 17.8 | 3.3 | 6.9 | | | | | | |
| Service Industries | 440.7 | 435.3 | 419.7 | 1.2 | 5.0 | | | | | | |
| Hotel and Lodging | 23.5 | 22.1 | 22.2 | 6.3 | 5.9 | | | | | | |
| Business Services | 81.8 | 80.3 | 73.0 | 1.8 | 12.1 | | | | | | |
| Health Services | 137.6 | 137.0 | 134.8 | 0.4 | 2.0 | | | | | | |
| Private Education | 24.7 | 25.0 | 24.7 | -1.1 | 0.2 | | | | | | |
| Soc. Serv., Museums etc. | 92.6 | 92.2 | 89.2 | 0.4 | 3.7 | | | | | | |
| Government | 305.2 | 301.9 | 300.7 | 1.1 | 1.5 | | | | | | |
| Federal | 31.4 | 31.2 | 30.5 | 0.8 | 3.1 | | | | | | |
| State | 77.7 | 76.4 | 76.2 | 1.7 | 2.0 | | | | | | |
| Local | 196.0 | 194.3 | 194.0 | 0.9 | 1.0 | | | | | | |

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.
2/ Includes Scientific Instruments and Miscellaneous Industries.

## Labor Force Data: State, MSAs, and Counties

| Area or County | May 1985, Prelim. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Labor Force 1/ | Unemp. | Unemp. Rate | |
| | | | | Year Ago |
| **State of Minnesota** | 2232783 | 106783 | 4.8 | 5.8 |
| **Metropolitan Areas** | | | | |
| Duluth/Superior MSA | 101132 | 8040 | 8.0 | 10.1 |
| St. Louis County | 83953 | 6565 | 7.8 | 10.2 |
| City of Duluth | 34189 | 2335 | 6.8 | 9.3 |
| Douglas County (Wisc.) | 17179 | 1475 | 8.6 | 9.3 |
| Fargo/Moorhead MSA | 80581 | 2900 | 3.6 | 3.8 |
| Cass County (N. Dakota) | 51765 | 1687 | 3.3 | 2.7 |
| Clay County | 28816 | 1213 | 4.2 | 5.7 |
| Mpls./St. Paul-MN-WI MSA | 1265337 | 48167 | 3.8 | 4.5 |
| Anoka County | 118267 | 4935 | 4.2 | 4.8 |
| Carver County | 21957 | 667 | 3.0 | 4.3 |
| Chisago County | 15701 | 813 | 5.2 | 5.7 |
| Dakota County | 118249 | 4596 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| Hennepin County | 551888 | 19973 | 3.6 | 4.4 |
| City of Bloomington | 47984 | 1677 | 3.5 | 4.3 |
| City of Minneapolis | 213164 | 8292 | 3.9 | 4.8 |
| Isanti County | 14201 | 894 | 6.3 | 4.7 |
| Ramsey County | 269249 | 10326 | 3.8 | 4.7 |
| City of St. Paul | 156852 | 6765 | 4.3 | 5.2 |
| St. Croix County (Wisc.) | 25697 | 1173 | 4.6 | 4.2 |
| Scott County | 26438 | 1028 | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| Washington County | 68411 | 2210 | 3.2 | 3.9 |
| Wright County | 35279 | 1552 | 4.4 | 5.1 |
| Rochester MSA-Olmsted Cty. | 62120 | 2154 | 3.5 | 4.3 |
| St. Cloud MSA | 81188 | 5161 | 6.4 | 6.8 |
| Benton County | 12545 | 788 | 6.3 | 6.5 |
| Sherburne County | 15260 | 938 | 6.1 | 6.5 |
| Stearns County | 53383 | 3435 | 6.4 | 7.0 |
| **Counties** | | | | |
| Aitkin | 5252 | 720 | 13.7 | 16.3 |
| Becker | 12508 | 1018 | 8.1 | 11.7 |
| Beltrami | 16800 | 1102 | 6.6 | 8.2 |
| Big Stone | 3999 | 217 | 5.4 | 6.6 |
| Blue Earth | 28499 | 1123 | 3.9 | 4.6 |
| Brown | 14958 | 723 | 4.8 | 5.9 |
| Carlton | 11445 | 969 | 8.5 | 11.6 |
| Cass | 10953 | 812 | 7.4 | 9.1 |
| Chippewa | 7708 | 474 | 6.1 | 5.8 |
| Clearwater | 4095 | 516 | 12.6 | 17.5 |
| Cook | 2230 | 191 | 8.6 | 11.1 |
| Cottonwood | 7537 | 317 | 4.2 | 5.3 |
| Crow Wing | 18221 | 1378 | 7.6 | 8.8 |
| Dodge | 8861 | 459 | 5.2 | 7.7 |
| Douglas | 14278 | 816 | 5.7 | 6.3 |
| Faribault | 10784 | 456 | 4.2 | 5.8 |
| Fillmore | 13105 | 688 | 5.2 | 6.4 |
| Freeborn | 17759 | 940 | 5.3 | 8.8 |
| Goodhue | 20563 | 1013 | 4.9 | 5.7 |
| Grant | 3733 | 163 | 4.4 | 5.6 |
| Houston | 10463 | 433 | 4.1 | 5.3 |
| Hubbard | 5938 | 501 | 8.4 | 11.1 |
| Itasca | 16710 | 1767 | 10.6 | 11.8 |
| Jackson | 8566 | 302 | 3.5 | 4.5 |
| Kanabec | 5834 | 578 | 9.9 | 9.8 |
| Kandiyohi | 19109 | 1048 | 5.5 | 6.2 |
| Kittson | 3363 | 207 | 6.2 | 9.1 |
| Koochiching | 7759 | 1049 | 13.5 | 10.6 |
| Lac Qui Parle | 5954 | 269 | 4.5 | 5.4 |
| Lake | 4600 | 461 | 10.0 | 15.6 |
| Lake of the Woods | 1874 | 128 | 6.8 | 9.2 |
| Le Sueur | 12226 | 941 | 7.7 | 8.8 |
| Lincoln | 4099 | 193 | 4.7 | 6.2 |
| Lyon | 15857 | 582 | 3.7 | 5.4 |
| McLeod | 17053 | 808 | 4.7 | 5.9 |
| Mahnomen | 2933 | 261 | 8.9 | 10.8 |
| Marshall | 6302 | 631 | 10.0 | 13.1 |
| Martin | 14115 | 636 | 4.5 | 5.7 |
| Meeker | 10575 | 639 | 6.0 | 10.5 |
| Mille Lacs | 9454 | 675 | 7.1 | 8.1 |
| Morrison | 13428 | 1030 | 7.7 | 8.9 |
| Mower | 18635 | 897 | 4.8 | 6.3 |
| Murray | 6304 | 328 | 5.2 | 6.7 |
| Nicollet | 15060 | 640 | 4.2 | 4.4 |
| Nobles | 12087 | 555 | 4.6 | 5.8 |
| Norman | 4812 | 260 | 5.4 | 6.3 |
| Otter Tail | 25442 | 1782 | 7.0 | 8.7 |
| Pennington | 6122 | 449 | 7.3 | 8.8 |
| Pine | 9923 | 829 | 8.4 | 10.2 |
| Pipestone | 6007 | 281 | 4.7 | 4.5 |
| Polk | 16873 | 1196 | 7.1 | 9.2 |
| Pope | 5778 | 280 | 4.8 | 6.3 |
| Red Lake | 2228 | 252 | 11.3 | 14.3 |
| Redwood | 11202 | 604 | 5.4 | 5.0 |
| Renville | 12154 | 885 | 7.3 | 8.1 |
| Rice | 23708 | 1465 | 6.2 | 6.9 |
| Rock | 5948 | 191 | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| Roseau | 6450 | 409 | 6.3 | 9.6 |
| Sibley | 8551 | 476 | 5.6 | 6.9 |
| Steele | 16802 | 778 | 4.6 | 5.8 |
| Stevens | 5978 | 206 | 3.4 | 4.5 |
| Swift | 6478 | 491 | 7.6 | 9.3 |
| Todd | 11637 | 740 | 6.4 | 7.4 |
| Traverse | 2932 | 112 | 3.8 | 5.1 |
| Wabasha | 9948 | 575 | 5.8 | 7.8 |
| Wadena | 5569 | 360 | 6.5 | 8.0 |
| Waseca | 9248 | 389 | 4.2 | 4.9 |
| Watonwan | 6624 | 264 | 4.0 | 6.9 |
| Wilkin | 4352 | 173 | 4.0 | 6.0 |
| Winona | 22743 | 1241 | 5.5 | 7.8 |
| Yellow Medicine | 7971 | 354 | 4.4 | 5.5 |

Technical Notes:

1/ Labor force data is computed according to BLS methodology. The method includes an adjustment to assure that the sum of the substate areas equals the separately estimated State total. This adjustment is applied to all county and MSA areas. County and area unemployment was multiplied by an adjustment factor of 1.25; employment was multiplied by 1.00. For a more detailed explanation see the Review of Labor and Economic Conditions, Vol. 4, No. 4, (February 1978 issue), p. 29.

Labor force is the sum of employment and unemployment; therefore, employment can be derived by subtracting unemployment from the labor force.

# Selected Minnesota Program Statistics

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

Tables 1 and 2 provide data on persons who filed a claim for unemployment compensation in Minnesota during the month. Only those claiming benefits from the regular State program are represented since data on the characteristics of Federal employees and veterans are not available.

Claimants for unemployment benefits dropped by 15,635 or 31.6 percent in May as all of the industry sectors showed over-the-month declines. The May percentage drop for all claimants (31.9 percent) compared with an average decrease of 25.9 percent for May over the past seven years. Also, all industry sectors experienced larger than average declines for May. Moreover, seasonally adjusted data show that total claimants fell for the fourth consecutive month in May. However, on an over-the-year basis, claimants rose by 4,114 or 13.8 percent in May. The over-the-year gain in May was the sixth in a row and was concentrated almost exclusively in the manufacturing sector. Also, seasonally adjusted figures show that claimants in manufacturing have risen almost steadily since September 1984.

**Table 1. Distribution of Insured Unemployed, By Age and Sex, May 1985**

| Age Groups | Number | Percent Distributions | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men of Totals | Men of Men | Women of Women |
| TOTALS | 33889 | 67.7 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Under 45 | 25734 | 68.5 | 76.8 | 74.1 |
| Under 25 | 5592 | 67.1 | 16.3 | 16.8 |
| 25-34 | 12652 | 70.3 | 38.8 | 34.4 |
| 35-44 | 7490 | 66.6 | 21.7 | 22.9 |
| 45 and Over | 8155 | 65.2 | 23.2 | 25.9 |
| 45-54 | 4585 | 64.1 | 12.8 | 15.0 |
| 55 and Over | 3570 | 66.7 | 10.4 | 10.9 |

**Table 2. Distribution of Insured Unemployed By Industry and Occupation, May 1985**

| Industry and Occupational Attachment | Number | Percent of Total | Percent Long-Term 1/ Unemployed | Women as Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total, All Industries | 33889 | 100.0 | 27.4 | 32.5 |
| Ag., For., Fish. | 319 | 0.9 | 31.1 | 21.4 |
| Mining | 397 | 1.2 | 50.7 | 9.2 |
| Construction | 5820 | 17.2 | 31.8 | 4.2 |
| Manufacturing | 12813 | 37.8 | 25.9 | 34.4 |
| Pub. Utilities | 1622 | 4.8 | 27.8 | 19.5 |
| Wholesale Trade | 2566 | 7.6 | 29.0 | 25.8 |
| Retail Trade | 3642 | 10.7 | 28.7 | 43.2 |
| Fin., Ins., Real Est. | 904 | 2.7 | 29.9 | 59.2 |
| Services | 4950 | 14.6 | 22.6 | 57.1 |
| Public Admin. | 467 | 1.4 | 30.5 | 39.0 |
| Inf. Not Available | 389 | 1.1 | 4.4 | 35.8 |
| Total, All Occupations | 33889 | 100.0 | 27.4 | 32.5 |
| Prof., Tech., Mgr. | 4432 | 13.1 | 26.4 | 39.6 |
| Clerical | 3567 | 10.5 | 25.3 | 80.5 |
| Sales | 1330 | 3.9 | 28.0 | 34.5 |
| Services | 2165 | 6.4 | 24.4 | 56.4 |
| Farm., For., Fish. | 313 | 0.9 | 20.9 | 8.3 |
| Processing | 1835 | 5.4 | 23.4 | 44.0 |
| Machine Trades | 2844 | 8.4 | 25.6 | 15.6 |
| Benchwork | 4183 | 12.4 | 29.0 | 52.2 |
| Structural Work | 7365 | 21.7 | 28.8 | 2.9 |
| Misc. | 5551 | 16.4 | 30.1 | 16.4 |
| Inf. Not Available | 304 | 0.9 | 12.9 | 29.0 |

1/ Long-Term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

## Job Service Applicant Supply and Demand

Table 3 compares Job Service (J.S.) job applicants with the J.S. job openings that existed at the end of the month. These comparisons are expressed as supply/demand ratios. Other things being equal, the greater the ratio of applicants to openings, the greater the competition has been for work within that occupational category. To put these ratios into context, the reader must remember that not only do job seekers and employers in general find jobs or recruit workers through other means, but those interested in certain kinds of jobs are particularly unlikely to use the J.S. For example, workers seeking professional and Managerial jobs are least likely to use the J.S., whereas employers usually recruit construction workers through union halls and hire teachers directly. Thus, the main value of Table 3 is that it reflects, for broad occupational groups, the relative labor market conditions that those using the J.S. encountered when seeking work.

**Table 3. Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand 1/**

| Occupation | Applicants (Supply) | Job Openings (Demand) | Supply/Demand Ratio | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 1985 | May 1985 | May 1985 | May 1984 |
| Total | 131574 | 15723 | 8.4 | 8.1 |
| Prof., Tech., Mgr. | 14310 | 1943 | 7.4 | 8.2 |
| Clerical | 22165 | 3229 | 6.9 | 7.6 |
| Sales | 6335 | 1707 | 3.7 | 2.7 |
| Dom. Services | 2123 | 194 | 10.9 | 9.8 |
| Other Services | 21225 | 4589 | 4.6 | 5.3 |
| Farm., Fish., For. | 4135 | 259 | 16.0 | 16.7 |
| Processing | 2549 | 691 | 3.7 | 4.4 |
| Machine Trades | 8436 | 488 | 17.3 | 8.6 |
| Benchwork | 9336 | 908 | 10.3 | 7.7 |
| Structural Work | 17722 | 784 | 22.6 | 18.6 |
| Mtr. Frght., Trans. | 5544 | 402 | 13.8 | 11.4 |
| Pkg. & Mat. Hndlg. | 16400 | 458 | 35.8 | 18.4 |
| Other | 1294 | 71 | 18.2 | 40.3 |

1/ Inexperienced and improperly coded job applicants are not included in this table.